



First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Weekly Update to the State and Territory Single Points of Contact (SPOCs) – April 27, 2015

FirstNet News

- The FirstNet Board met on April 24 in a public meeting in order to review recommendations for releasing draft acquisition related documents as well as an additional notice for public comment. You can find all documents from the April 24 FirstNet Board Special Meeting here: <http://firstnet.gov/content/firstnet-board-special-meeting-april-24-2015>.
- Following Board decisions made at the April 24 meeting, a Special Notice with draft RFP documents was released today with responses due no later than 12:00 PM Eastern Time on July 27, 2015. The documents are available on the Federal Register at <https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&tab=core&id=55fa4d3227d5ac0173e4613e04368c86>
- FirstNet also posted a [pre-publication version of the Third Notice](#) on its website on April 24. This Third Notice responds to comments and further clarifies proposed interpretations related to the definition and scope of the term “public safety entity” as used in FirstNet’s enabling legislation and as discussed in the First Notice. Comments for this Third Notice will be due 30 days after it’s published in the [Federal Register](#). A FAQ on the Third Notice is available here: <http://firstnet.gov/resources>
- Last week, FirstNet participated in the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) Spring Meeting in San Antonio, Texas and the Virginia State Sheriffs Association (VSA) Annual Meeting in Roanoke, Virginia on April 23. Prior to the VSA meeting, FirstNet staff visited the Roanoke Emergency Communications Center. Staff observed Roanoke’s operations, and participated in a tour and discussions with EOC personnel.
- This week on April 27, FirstNet will be at the 2015 Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System Conference in Springfield, Illinois. On April 28, FirstNet will be participating in the Government Information Technology Executive Council (GITEC) Summit in Baltimore, Maryland, the 2015 Wireless Infrastructure Show in Hollywood, Florida, the Minnesota Public Safety Interoperable Communications Conference in St. Paul, and the California USDA Rural Development Grant Managers Conference. On April 29, FirstNet will be at the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) Fly-In in Alexandria, Virginia. On May 1, FirstNet is attending the Canada – United States

Communications Interoperability Working Group (CANUS CIWG) in Washington, DC. We finish up the week on May 2 at the Metro Fire Chiefs Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

- The FirstNet User Advocacy team held initial consultation meetings last week in New York (44 state and local attendees representing all of the disciplines) and North Carolina (89 state and local attendees representing all of the disciplines). We are looking forward to the initial consultation meeting in South Carolina on April 30. We have held 22 consultation meetings involving more than 1,500 state, tribal, and local representatives. Overall, we have connected with more than 13,000 public safety and private sector stakeholders through 150 outreach and consultation engagements in fiscal year 2015 to date.
- **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** To date, FirstNet has received 50 of 56 completed consultation checklists. Confirmed upcoming initial consultation meetings are: South Carolina (4/30), West Virginia (5/5), Rhode Island (5/6), Louisiana (5/13), Arkansas (5/14), Virgin Islands (5/19), Maine (5/20), Idaho (5/21), Connecticut (5/27), New Hampshire (6/9), New Mexico (6/10), Ohio (6/11), Vermont (6/16), Kansas (6/17), Wisconsin (6/18), Illinois (7/14), Alabama (7/15), Georgia (7/21), California (7/28-29), Tennessee (7/23), Pennsylvania (8/4), Hawaii (8/11-12), American Samoa (8/13-14), Indiana (8/26), Michigan (9/1) and New Jersey (9/3). An updated schedule can be viewed on the [website tracker](#).

News from the Public Safety Advisory Committee's Tribal Working Group (TWG)

- Tribal Outreach Branch Chief Carl Rebstock accompanied P. Allan Sadowski, the North Carolina state SPOC and Wesley King, Director of Communications for the state team, to meet with staff and members of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) at their emergency operations center, named in honor of N.C. State Highway Patrol Trooper David Shawn Blanton, Jr., an EBCI tribal member shot in the line of duty during a routine traffic stop in June 2008.

News from the States and PSAC Associations

- The Texas Emergency Management Conference that will be held on May 12-15 in San Antonio at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center will showcase the Harris County/State of Texas Early Builder Project BIGNet including demonstrations of the mobile eNodeB. FirstNet staff members Brian Kassa, Brian Hobson, and Carl Rebstock will be featured speakers in several sessions along with Texas SPOC Todd Early. Register at:
<http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/conference/txEmerMgmtConf.htm>

- A briefing for Washington DC-based staff representatives of the public safety and state/local/tribal associations will be held on May 7; this is a follow up to an earlier briefing held in September 2014. Currently we have 34 reps attending from 24 organizations.

Media Watch

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Department of Commerce hyperlinks will direct you to websites that are not under the Government's control.

Traditional Media

The LA-RICS BTOP project continues to receive coverage in the telecom and public safety trade press. This included an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal titled, "This Is the Last Thing First Responders Need" <http://www.wsj.com/articles/this-is-the-last-thing-first-responders-need-1429574851>.

FirstNet Authorizes Release of Draft RFP, Approves Third Public Notice

http://mccmag.com/newsArticle.cfm?news_id=11996

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board authorized the release of a special notice requesting feedback on draft request for proposals (RFP) documents. The documents will be available April 27 after being delayed at the board's March meeting.

TR Daily: Expressions of Interest Sought for FirstNet Board

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) is seeking expressions of interest from individuals who want to serve on the board of the First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet). The appointments of four of the board members expire in August. Expressions of interest are due May 15.

Urgent Communications: Go, or No Go? New LA-RICS Public-safety LTE plan Gives NTIA, FirstNet a Lot to Consider

<http://urgentcomm.com/blog/go-or-no-go-new-la-rics-public-safety-lte-plan-gives-ntia-firstnet-lot-consider>

There has been no decision yet from NTIA about the fate of the LA-RICS public-safety LTE project. That's understandable, because there are a lot of factors to consider...For those not familiar with the LA-RICS project, here's some background: NTIA administers the \$154.6 million federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) grant that is funding most of the proposed LTE network. NTIA also is the umbrella organization within the U.S. Department of Commerce that houses FirstNet, which expects to integrate early-builder networks like LA-RICS into its nationwide broadband network. During the past several months, multiple smaller cities in the Los Angeles area pulled out of the LA-RICS regional project, reducing the number of sites in the LTE network design from 231 to 177. In late March, Los Angeles County halted construction of LTE sites on county-owned property for two weeks, and the city made an even stronger statement the following week. In the wake of these actions, NTIA suspended project construction on April 3, directed LA-RICS to submit a new plan within 10 days and stipulated that the city, county, NTIA and FirstNet all needed to agree to it before it would lift the suspension.

RCR Wireless: LIS2015: Keeping up with the Evolution of LTE

<http://www.rcrwireless.com/20150423/test-and-measurement/lis2015-keeping-up-with-lte-evolution-tag6>

The continued evolution of LTE is providing fertile ground for the testing industry, and features including carrier aggregation and Voice over LTE were the focus of the first day of this week's LTE Innovation Summit...The summit tackled a number of other LTE-related topics, including: LTE for public safety and the FirstNet national-network-to-be also came under discussion, from device requirements and the issues of dealing with a limited market with very specific, ruggedized needs described by Jim Harper of Elektrobit, to testing done by P3 Communications on live Band 14 sites on the JerseyNet network in New Jersey – one of the a handful of pilot projects that have been experimenting with LTE for public safety under the auspices of FirstNet.

Web and Social Media

Consultation and outreach, as well as the Special Board Meeting were the main topics of discussion about FirstNet over social media. The Wall Street Journal piece received attention the day it was published, with some public safety stakeholders being critical of the story on social media. The FirstNet Twitter account has grown to over 2,098 followers; LinkedIn 676; Google+ 40; and YouTube has 105 subscribers. Blogs this week included a

recap of the DC Consultation, a blog on public safety applications, and a post about the government of Canada allocating an additional 10 MHz of broadband spectrum to public safety communications. You can access all of the FirstNet blogs at:

<http://www.firstnet.gov/newsroom/blog>

Do you have something you want to feature in the weekly update, such as a conference date, personnel announcement, or news article showcasing the work of your state or territory? Please send it to outreach@firstnet.gov for possible inclusion in an upcoming update.